

Position Description

1. General information

Position reference	RMIT/AigüesBCN-PF1: Drinking Water Pre-treatment Process Optimization
Research area	Optimisation of existing pre-treatment steps at large and advanced drinking water treatment plants and comparison with innovative technologies (drinking water production and aquifer recharge).
Research fields	Chemical Engineering; Drinking Water Quality Production; Water Quality; Health and Environment
Supervisors	• Adrià Rubirola Gamell (Aigües de Barcelona) • Vincent Pettigrove (RMIT)
Available research capabilities	Access to a new pilot plant installed and operating at the Sant Joan Despí Drinking Water Treatment Plant (with a flow rate of 3 to 15 m ³ /h) that measures basic physicochemical parameters at a process control laboratory. Aigües de Barcelona specialized laboratory located in Collblanc with the following equipment available: ICP-AES and ICP-MS for metal analysis LC-MS/MS, GC-MS/MS for organic Micropollutant analysis (pesticides, PFAs, pharmaceuticals, drugs and DBPs) LC-HRMS, GC-HRMS for unknown organic pollutants.
Find out more about the research groups	• https://www.rmit.edu.au/about/schools-colleges/science/research/research-centres-groups/aquatic-environmental-stress
Position funded by	• COFUND, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), Horizon Europe, European Union • Aigües de Barcelona • RMIT University
Sponsoring entity	Aigües de Barcelona
Employing entity	RMIT Europe
Seconding entity	RMIT University
Foreseen start date	June 2026
Gross annual salary	37,125 EUR plus complements defined below

2. Expected Candidate Profile

The expected candidate profile for the position is as follows:

- Desirable experience in the design and operation of pilot plants, preferably water treatment plants.

- Knowledge of elimination of organic matter, especially organic pollutants and DBPs.
- Desirable experience with pilot plants and in optimising pre-treatment processes with a focus on water quality (including DBPs, emerging pollutants, organic matter, and transformation products).

3. Employment Conditions

RMIT Europe offers a 36-month (3-year) postdoctoral full employment contract in Barcelona, Spain as part of the AuSpire researcher training program, co-funded by the European Commission under the MSCA COFUND scheme. The total working hours per week are 37 and there is a probation period of 5 months.

The Postdoctoral Fellow will be based primarily at Aigües de Barcelona facilities to conduct their research using its laboratories, while regular visits to RMIT Europe are also foreseen.

The remuneration, in line with the European Commission rules for Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant holders, will consist of a gross annual salary of 37,125 EUR. The definite amount to be received by the Postdoctoral Fellow is subject to Spanish tax legislation.

The position will be jointly supervised by Aigües de Barcelona and RMIT, where the Postdoctoral Fellow must undertake a secondment at the premises of the latter in Melbourne, Australia for up to 12 months.

Additionally, the program includes compulsory annual in-person workshops at various locations across Spain, along with online training and networking activities.

Benefits include

- 4,000 EUR relocation for employment stipend to cover costs associated with taking up employment (flights, visa, insurance, etc.), to be distributed monthly as a top-up to the gross salary.¹
- 9,000 EUR relocation for secondment stipend to cover compulsory project-related travel and accommodation costs (flights, visa, insurance, accommodation, etc.).¹
- 3,000 EUR travel stipend to cover flights and accommodation for participating in compulsory AuSpire training and networking events in Spain over the 3 years.¹
- 314 EUR monthly family allowance offered to candidates who meet the criteria.^{1 2}
- Becoming a Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellow and be invited to join the [Marie Curie Alumni Association](#).
- 22 days of paid holiday leave.

¹ The definitive amount to be received by the Postdoctoral Fellow may be subject to Spanish tax legislation.

² According to MSCA-COFUND requirements, Fellows with family obligations are entitled to a family allowance (i.e. persons linked to Postdoctoral Fellow by (i) marriage, or (ii) a relationship with equivalent status to a marriage recognised by the legislation of the country or region where this relationship was formalised; or (iii) dependent children who are actually being maintained by the Postdoctoral Fellow).

- 4 personal leave days.
- Christmas closure (between Christmas and New Year) – 4 working days of leave (not discounted from holidays).
- Spanish Social Security coverage.
- Sick leave.
- Parental leave.
- Hybrid work scheme.
- Two weeks per year remote work from anywhere.
- Flexible salary benefits (meals, transport, healthcare, kindergarten).
- Free coffee and fruit.
- Access to research and training facilities (analytical chemistry and ecotoxicology laboratories).